

# Arguments for and Against Medical Marijuana



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## Arguments for Marijuana agents as Medicine -AIDS and Cancer: Increases appetite of patients and blocks nausea in chemotherapy

The loss of appetite and weight associated with AIDS can lead to a condition known as AIDS wasting syndrome. Cancer chemotherapy can cause nausea and vomiting that cannot be controlled by other drugs. The active ingredient in marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol in its pure form was FDA-approved in 1985 and is still used to treat nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy. The medicine is called Marinol (dronabinol).

## -Multiple Sclerosis

In 15 other countries (not USA), reduction of muscle spasms and pain in multiple sclerosis is managed by a purified mixture of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol known as Sativex from G.W. Pharmaceuticals, U.K..

## -Kills Cancer Cells?

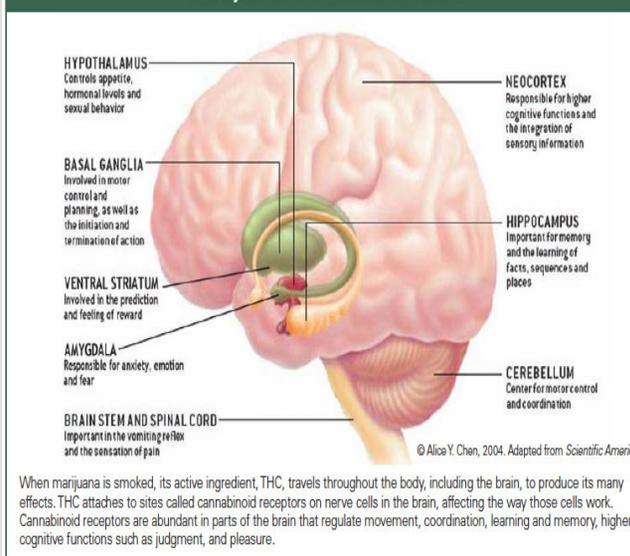


Recent animal studies have shown that marijuana extracts may help kill certain cancer cells and reduce the size of others. Evidence from one cell culture study suggests that purified extracts from whole-plant marijuana can slow the growth of cancer cells from one of the most serious types of brain tumors (Scott, 2014)

However, the active ingredients in the plant have not been identified for careful study of safety and effectiveness in a large number of cancers.

No comprehensive animal studies or clinical trial studies in humans have been performed .

## Marijuana's Effects on the Brain



## Argument Against "Medical Marijuana"

### -More kids will use Dope

Opponents of legalizing Medical Marijuana have long proposed that it will send a message to teenagers that it is ok to smoke marijuana (Washington Post, 2015)

### -Medical Marijuana is not needed

John Peterson, MD, president of the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine, said, "For every disease and disorder for which marijuana has been recommended, there is a better, FDA-approved medication."

(e.g. dronabinol and nabilone)

### -Marijuana use may lead to an increase in infections

THC and other cannabinoids in marijuana have immunosuppressant properties producing an impaired immune system response.

### -Marijuana is not FDA Approved

Medical Marijuana preparations have not been submitted to the FDA for approval to meet the standards of the Safety and Effectiveness that other pharmaceutical medicines are required to meet. Medical Pot should be held to the same standards. to protect the consumer.